

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method of processing commercial transactions through an Internet website, comprising:
  - submitting a request for goods or services through an Internet website;
  - selecting suppliers to receive the request based on geographical area or predefined grouping of the suppliers;
  - transmitting the request to the suppliers;
  - communicating a return quote from the suppliers in response to the request; and
  - transmitting the return quote through the Internet website to an originator of the request.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the request identifies the goods or services.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the Internet website maintains a listing of suppliers.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the originator designates a geographic area to select suppliers from the listing of suppliers.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the request is transmitted to the suppliers through electronic mail.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the return quote from the suppliers including pricing information.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the return quote is

transmitted to the originator through electronic mail.

8. The method of claim 1, further including the step of selecting at least one of the suppliers to supply the goods or services.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the commercial transactions are maintained on the Internet website.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the commercial transactions are available for searching and reporting.

11. A method of acquiring goods or services through an Internet website, comprising:

submitting a request for goods or services through an Internet website directed to a group of suppliers;

receiving a return quote in response to the request; and

selecting at least one of the suppliers from which to acquire the goods or services.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the Internet website maintains a listing of suppliers.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein an originator of the request designates a geographic area to select the group of suppliers from the listing of suppliers.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein the request identifies the goods or services.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein the request is transmitted to the group of suppliers through electronic mail.

16. The method of claim 11, wherein the return quote is transmitted to an originator of the request through electronic mail.

17. The method of claim 11, further including the step of maintaining commercial transactions on the Internet website for searching and reporting.

18. A method of supplying goods or services through an Internet website, comprising:

receiving a request for goods or services through an Internet website directed to a group of suppliers;

communicating a return quote in response to the request to an originator of the request; and

being selected as a supplier to supply the goods or services.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the request identifies the goods or services.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein the request is transmitted to the group of suppliers by electronic mail.

21. The method of claim 18, wherein the return quote is transmitted to an originator of the request by electronic mail.

22. The method of claim 18, further including the step of maintaining commercial transactions on the Internet website for searching and reporting.

23. A method of supporting transactions for goods or services through an Internet website, comprising:

receiving a request for goods or services through an Internet website;

communicating the request to a group of suppliers;  
and

providing for selection of at least one of the group of suppliers to supply the goods or services.

24. The method of claim 23, further including the step of communicating a return quote from at least one of the group of suppliers to an originator of the request.

25. The method of claim 23, wherein the Internet website maintains a listing of suppliers.

26. The method of claim 23, wherein an originator of the request designates a geographic area to select the group of suppliers from the listing of suppliers.

27. The method of claim 23, wherein the request identifies the goods or services.

28. The method of claim 23, wherein the request is transmitted to the group of suppliers by electronic mail.

29. The method of claim 23, wherein the return quote is transmitted to an originator of the request by electronic mail.

30. The method of claim 23, further including the step of maintaining commercial transactions on the Internet website for searching and reporting.

31. A system of supporting transactions for goods or services through an Internet website, comprising:

means for receiving a request for goods or services through an Internet website;

means for communicating the request to a group of suppliers; and

means for providing for selection of at least one of the group of suppliers to supply the goods or services.

32. The system of claim 31, further including means for communicating a return quote to an originator of the request.

33. The system of claim 31, further including means for designating a geographic area from which to select the group of suppliers.

34. The system of claim 31, further including means for communicating the request to the group of suppliers through electronic mail.

35. The system of claim 31, further including means for communicating the return quote to an originator of the request through electronic mail.

36. The system of claim 31, further including means for maintaining commercial transactions on the Internet website for searching and reporting.